

SEPTEMBER

1995

LISTing Newsletter

Newsletter of the Long Island
Sinclair/Timex Users Group

Next Meeting
Sept. 17, 1995.

America Online Says It's Fighting Hacker Problem

By Reuters

America Online Inc., the largest on-line service in the nation, said yesterday that it was fighting computer hackers causing problems on its service, but it would not say whether its network had been breached.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported yesterday that hackers had tampered with America Online's business and customer files and created a security breach that could affect the accounts of subscribers.

A spokeswoman for America Online declined to discuss details in the report but said the on-line service was continuing to change its system software to combat a hackers program called AOHell.

"From time to time, we've encountered problems as it relates to AOHell," a spokeswoman, Pam McGraw, said when asked to comment on the article. "We're not going to provide details."

The Chronicle, citing "sources associated with the company," said the

hackers appeared to have obtained access to a variety of files, including the personal files of Stephen M. Case, the president and chief executive of America Online.

To sign up for America Online, subscribers must submit a credit-card number, which can be used for on-line purchases of products. The article said it was unclear whether the hackers could retrieve card information.

America Online's stock was up \$1.125 yesterday, to \$71, on Nasdaq.

Listing Policy

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LONG ISLAND GROUP Sinclair TIMEX

HARVEY'S Corner

Oh, my gosh or words to that effect. It seems that the last meeting was just held and that I would have a lot of time to type up the September newsletter. Not true. Here it is into the second week of Sept. and I've only just begun. Thank goodness that the meeting has been rescheduled for the third Sunday of the month due to some prior commitments.

Okay you guys and gals out there in cyberspace, I got a problem that I can't seem to resolve.

My daughter gave me a MODEM that she had as excess to her needs. It's a ZOOM V.42bis. I tried using it and got poor results. Both Bobs (Malloy and Gilder) came over to help. BM even brought over his modem which was a V32bis and worked okay. We were using the QL52 terminal emulator program from Vic Rosenthal. We were trying to connect to Compuserve of which BM is a subscriber. His modem worked mine did not. The manual although fairly large did not address the problem that the ZOOM indicated. I was able to enter the dial to number using the ATDT command and dialed, got an answer signal but could not okay the receipt and communicate. Tried a few of the special commands that the Zoom manual listed, i.e., AT+V31DT which is supposed to negotiate Speed and protocol. Didn't help. Any suggestions?

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PLEASE SEND ALL INQUIRIES AND
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HARVEY RAIT
5 PERI LANE

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COMING EVENTS: THE NEXT L.I.S.T.
MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY SEPT. 17
AT 2 P.M. AT THE HOME OF HARVEY
RAIT (SEE ADDRESS ABOVE).

Report on the meeting of JUNE
The meeting started promptly at
2 PM with 4 members in
attendance. General discussion
was held on various topics as
usual in regard to
programs, their usages and pros
and cons.
The meeting was adjourned at
4:30 PM.

ERNIE



QL CORNER

I have just received the book, "Counting on QL ABACUS" by J. W. Penfold, dated February 1986. This is a small size book - those of you who are familiar with Bernard Babani books published in the UK. The book, stock #BP162, sells for \$2.50 from Electronic Technology Today, Inc., P. O. Box 240, Massapequa Park, NY 11762-0240. The book size is 7 x 4-3/8 inch. The book provides examples to show the user how ABACUS can help you with many calculations for domestic, small business and technical applications. Also included is a chapter on the elements of mathematics, as they apply to spreadsheet use, for those whose numeracy is not all it might be!

Technology Today has other QL books at a final clearance sale:

BP156 - An Introduction to QL Machine Code, 96 pages	\$3.95
BP161 - Into The QL ARCHIVE, 96 pages	\$2.95
Shipping for all three books	\$3.75

There have been some additions to the QUANTA disk library since May 1995. The following list of program disks have new programs and/or updated programs within their contents. The Library Guide, LG 01 has been updated to include all programs, new and updated as of August 1995.

January 1995:

PS 06 XCHANGE Version 3.90I
GR 04 Line Design Graphics

May 1995:

PF 03 Remove QPAGE
PF 05 Updated QPAGE (New Disk)
PS 02 Remove INDEXER 2
PS 02 Remove FAMILY
PS 03 Remove PEDIGREE
PS 05 Add FAMILY +
PS 05 Add Pedigree
SP 03 Updated QL_WORLD_INDEX
SP 12 ASTRO_O (New Disk)
SP 13 ASTRO_B (New Disk)
UD 01 Add INDEXER 2
UG 12 Add PHONLOG

August 1995

LG 01 LIBRARY DISK Updated 08/95
DE 08 SOLVIT-PLUS 2 Demo
GR 03 3D PIE Utility
SP 06 Election 92 Updated Version
UD 01 SUBCOPY Utility
UG 04 Updated by removal of DOCTOR EDITOR Utility
UG 08 Updated NORBACK HARD DISK Utility
UG 10 Updated DOCTOR EDITOR Utility
UG 12 Updated PHONELOG
UG 13 Set of TURBO Compiled Utilities (New Disk)

When ordering QUANTA Library disks, Please include a current address from the QUANTA publication for verification of membership. You may send me your own program disks for update or I can supply either 3.25 inch or 5.25 inch diskettes at 50 cents each. Please add approximate postage for your order.

UD 01 INDEXER 2 is an updated version of the original INDEXER by Tony Shields. The original program had several menu screens that the user had to wade through until the main menu came up. INDEXER 2 will accommodate 720K, 1.4M and 3.2 M disks. One nice feature of this program is that you can obtain a hard copy of the disk contents from your printer.

LIST! Are you LISTening? Chicago Area Timex Users Group, MAR/APR 1995, page 5 Bob Swoger

In his June issue of QL Corner, Bob Gilder wrote about Ruth Fegley having "oxidation problems on the interface pins and by pressing the interface towards the QL body tends to remove the oxidation". He also said that Bob Malloy's four computers with the same symptoms - one or more socketed IC's had to be reseated into their respective sockets and the QL's then operated as they should. Also, the keyboard 90 interface also had to be reseated into its respective socket.

Bob then stated "periodically, all plugged-in devices such as interfaces and IC's should be partially removed and then pushed back into their respective sockets for flawless computer operation with out power on".

Bob!, didn't you get to read NTN Vol. 7, Num 5? It states "If you are having trouble with IC's in IC sockets, clean them with tuner cleaner if you wish. Then put some mineral oil in a saucer and dip the IC pins into the mineral oil before inserting the IC into the socket. The IC will go in so much easier!" Earlier in the article it said "Tuner cleaner just doesn't do the job because after cleaning, no lubricant is left behind so corrosion will set in, not so with mineral oil. Oxygen can't get to the metal any more so the electrical contact lasts for many years."

Those ICs and connectors should have been installed with high viscosity mineral oil (Squib comes to mind), a laxative obtained at the corner drug store and applied with a tooth pick on the connector or by placing the ICs in a bowl with just a little mineral oil at the bottom as described in the NTN 7.5 issue. Someone at Motorola came to realization that if mineral oil could keep people cleaned out that it might work on connectors, I don't know why, but it did!

I'm afraid that Bob Malloy and Ruth Fegley will be back time and time again until mineral oil is used on those pins and connectors. I give you this information with 30 years experience at Motorola as we have used this trick to keep our connectors from going intermittent and there are no more intermittent connections here in CATUG country anymore! GET OUT THE MINERAL OIL.

Thanks for the advice. Perhaps some of our readers would like to try this remedy. As for me, my experience with lubricant for connectors and ICs does work. However, repairing video projectors and monitors with fans indicate that there is quite a lot dust and dirt accumulation on the sockets and connectors as well as some leakage onto pc boards. Our readers will have to make up their minds as what remedy is best suited for themselves. Again, thanks for the advice, Bob!

See you next month... Bob Gilder

Solvit-Plus2 Review

by Harvey Rait, Pres. of the Long Island Sinclair-Times

Before I had a chance to write my review as requested by Bob Dyl, publisher of IQLR, I read a review of Solvit in the June 95 issue of Quanta by G. Underwood. I thought that I had blown my chance to be of service to the QL community. However Solvit is complex and entertaining enough to warrant additional review and comment.

First I would like to give kudos to Geoff Wicks for his excellent program, and secondly to Mr. Underwood for his afore-mentioned review.

I tested Solvit on a QL with a basic Trump card expansion and a 3 1/2" HD floppy drive. The program itself was given to me already unzipped on 8 disks. An excess of disks was used so I would not have any problems with my 720 K drive capacity.

Solvit does not contain dictionaries in the true sense of the word. A dictionary usually contains definitions and pronounciations, and depending on size, parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective etc.) and even etymology (word derivation). Therefore I would rather call it a lexicon of words that are used in a particular language.

Like most hackers I never read the documentation provided as a first step, but boot it up and see what it looks like until I hit a wall. The wall comes up very soon and I suggest a quick read through of the excellent documentation before going too far.

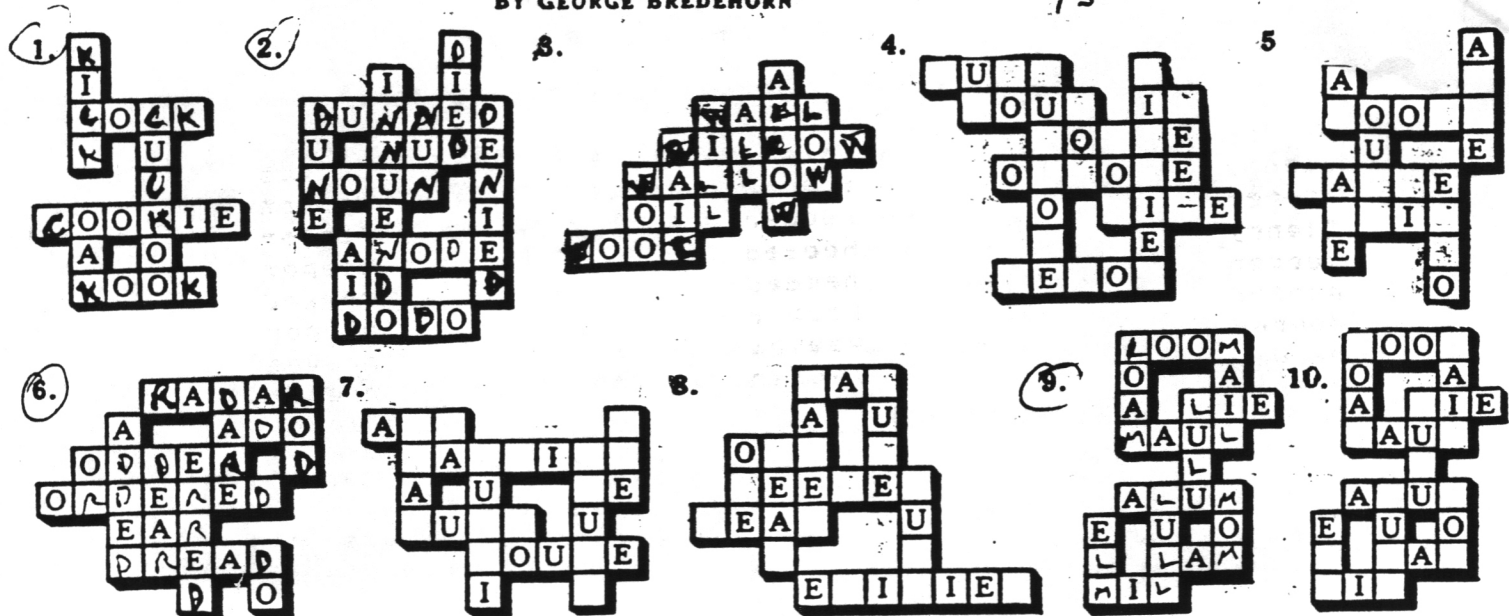
One of the disks was titled "Cymraeg", and I was puzzled and intrigued until I looked it up in my regular dictionary and found Cymric, pronounced either Kim'ric or Sim'ric, and that it referred to the Welsh language. Score one point for the learning process.

Word games are very entertaining, however for the general class of crossword puzzle use Solvit is of minor importance. Most crossword puzzles depend on synonyms, definitions and clues (some straightforward and some cryptic). I place myself in the "maven" class of puzzle solvers, doing the N.Y. Times daily and larger Sunday puzzles in short order. Solvit would be of little use here. However, once in a while there are puzzles such as puns and anagrams for which Solvit could be of great help. A special puzzle appeared in the 6/19/95 N.Y. Times entitled "Two by Two" for which solvit was right on the money in solving if you knew how to apply it. The puzzle is shown at the end of this review.

Solvit-Plus 2 is a well worth it addition to ones library of programs. It is easy to use and has a multitude of potential uses for any word meister. I give it 2 thumbs up.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

BY GEORGE BREDEHORN



The solutions to the word puzzle indicated above is solved with the use of Solvit 2 in the following manner;

Using puzzle grid #8, we work on the word expressed by the line "e-i-ie-". Selecting the Solvit menu Wordsearch, we enter e?i?ie? and the resulting wordsearch comes up with the result that there is only one word that fits the answer. That word is edified. Therefore the missing letters are 'd' and 'f'. This happens to be a lucky choice since there was only one word that fits the answer. Suppose that we had chosen the fourth row across in puzzle 8 instead. We would have then entered "fee?e?" and obtained an answer that there are 40 words found. By looking over the list of 40 words we can eliminate those words that have more than two consonants in the first, fourth, and sixth positions. This reduces the possibility to only 12 words. However we have already determined that the only possible solution contains only a 'd' or an 'f' or both there is only one word that fits, and that is 'deeded'. By entering 'deeded' and 'edified' across on lines 4 and 7 every thing falls into place using only 'd's and 'f's.

Not all of the puzzle grids were quite as easy since puzzle #3 had 132 words that fit into the requirement "a??a?". Even here though the 132 words were quickly reduced by dropping off the suitable list words that had vowels in the unknown positions or more than two different consonants in the unknown positions. The 132 words were reduced to only 4: cannon, lassos, mammon, and wallow.

Missing consonants were 'cn', 'sl', 'mn', and 'wl'. By entering into Solvit, line three across in puzzle #3 as "a?????" 44 words were found. By the elimination referred to above, this was reduced to only 3 possibilities: 'winnow', 'willow', and 'mirror'.

Only the combination 'l' and 'w' fits both word searches, therefore the two major words across are 'Willow' and 'wallow'. All of the shorter words fall into place after this entry.

I left puzzle grids #4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 for you to try to solve yourself. Answers are also provided, but don't cheat until after you have tried to solve them.

All the vowels have been positioned for you in the miniature crisscross grids. Pick

just two consonants and repeat them as often as necessary to complete each grid. Only common, uncapitalized words are used. Numbers 9 and 10, which use the same grid, can be completed in two different ways.

60

6/12/95

edified

e?i?ie? - 1 word found.

beefed
deeded
deeper
feeney
meeker
peeled
peered
peevee
reeker
reeved
seeder
seeped
veered
weeper

beeped
deemed
feeder
heeded
needed
peeper
peevec
reefer
reeled
reeves
seeker
teepee
weeded

beeves
deepen
feeler
keeper
peeked
peeper
peeves
reeked
reeler
seeded
seemed
teeter
weeder

?ee?e? - 40 words found.

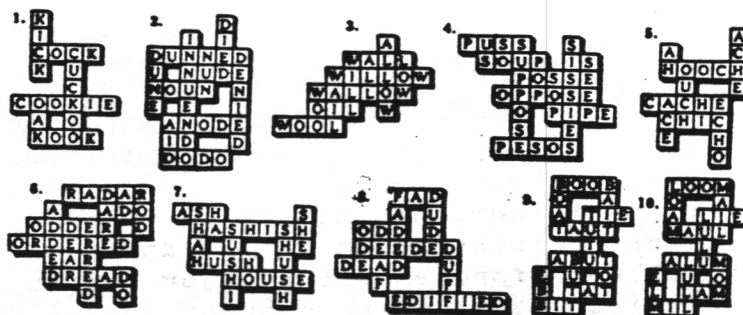
?a??o? - 132 words found.

billow
dialog
gibbon
hilton
lisbon
micros
minion
nimrod
pigeon
pistol
signor
victor
wilcox
wilton
wisdom

bishop
diatom
gibson
lipton
litton
mignon
minnow
nippon
pillow
piston
siphon
vinson
willow
window
zircon

citron
dillon
gideon
liquor
micron
milton
mirror
pianos
pinion
ribbon
tiptoe
vision
wilson
winnow

???? - 44 words found.



Conversion tips

A guide to ZX81/Spectrum program conversions from David Nowotnik.

The versions of BASIC offered by the two ZX computers are so similar that many programs for one can be used by the other. The ZX81 has only two commands which are not present on the Spectrum, SCROLL and UNPLOT, and these should cause you few problems when converting ZX81 programs to the Spec-

trum (see Table 1).

There are quite a lot of commands and functions on the Spectrum which are not available on the ZX81. A list of these appears in Table 4. The stars indicate those commands and functions for which there is no simple translation to ZX81 BASIC. Those for colour and sound can be omitted;

but you will have to find some alternative for the high resolution and file I/O commands.

The command PLOT appears on both computers, but the effect is quite different, so beware! Another tip: PEEK and POKE should be used with caution. In conversion, addresses will almost certainly have to be changed. Some of those

changes appear in the tables. A command such as POKEUSR "a"... on the Spectrum indicates User Defined Graphics; ZX81 users don't have this facility, so you'll have to omit this and use standard character instead.

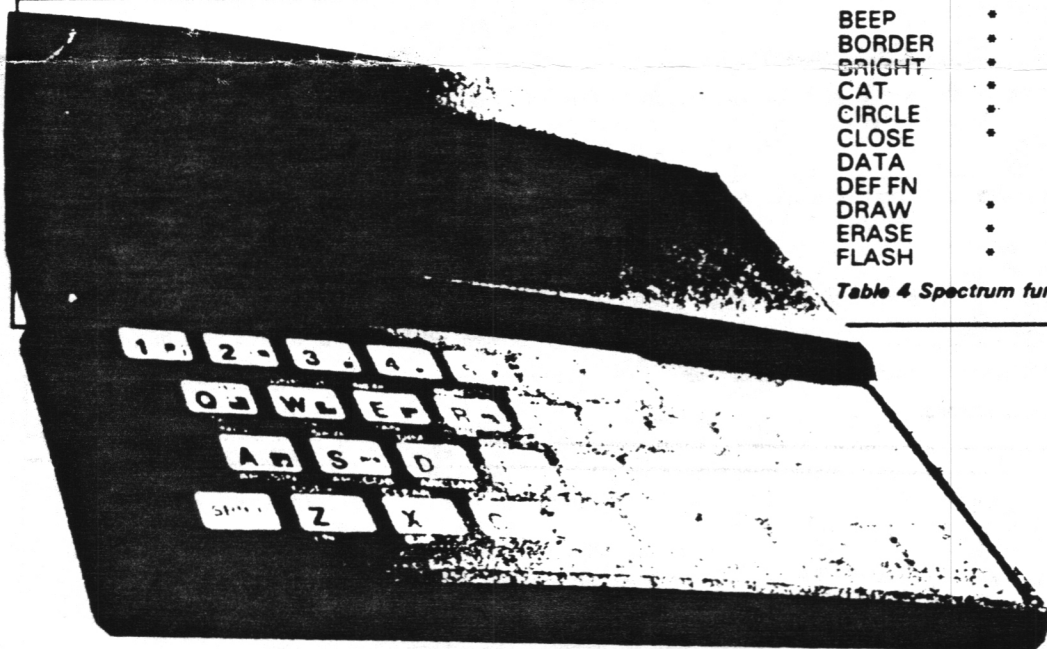
ZX81	Spectrum	Comments
SCROLL	RANDOMISE USR 3582 or LET t=USR 3582	If the program uses random numbers, they could become rather predictable with the first option. If so, use the second, using a variable (in this case t) which is otherwise not used.
PLOT Y,X	PRINT AT 21-Y/2,X/2;	Print the appropriate quarter square graphics character.
UNPLOT Y,X	PRINT AT 21-Y/2,X/2;	Print a space, or the appropriate quarter square graphics character.

Table 1 ZX81 to Spectrum conversions.

Spectrum	ZX81	Comments
BIN eg LET y=BIN 10010101	LET y=(decimal no.) Conversion to decimal: 10010101=149 128 64 32 16 8 4 2 1 Add these numbers together when a 1 appears at the appropriate position in binary.	BIN allows the representation of a number in binary. On the ZX81 use the decimal equivalent, but beware; BIN is often used with User Defined Graphics, which are not available on the ZX81.
READ/DATA eg READ x,y DATA 50,60	LET LET X=50 LET Y=60	READ and DATA are used to store a lot of information in a program. Use LET instead.
DEF FN and FN eg DEF a(x)=SQR x LET t=FN a(i)	LET X\$="SQR X" LET X=1 LET T=VAL X\$	The defined function can appear in a string. Use the keyword for built-in functions (eg SQR). The equivalent of FN may need 2 lines, as shown.
PLOT	no equivalent	
SCREEN\$ eg LET a=SCREEN\$ x,y	LET A=PEEK(PEEK 16396 +256*PEEK 16397+1+Y+33*X)	Used in interactive games to detect characters in the display file. Note — this formula only works when a RAM pack is fitted.

Table 2 Spectrum to ZX81 conversions.

ZX81	Spectrum	Comments
1 FRAMES POKE 16436,255 POKE 16437,255 LET T=(65535-PEEK 16436-256*PEEK 16437) /50	POKE 23672,0:POKE 23673,0 LET t=(PEEK 23672+256* PEEK 23673)/50 For times greater than 10 minutes, you can use byte 23674 as well.	Both computers have a counter which accurately varies by 50 every second. In the example, use the first line to start the 'clock'. The variable T will have the time in seconds after the start. The counter can only be used for 10 minutes.
2 Line number zero POKE 16510,0	POKE 23756,0 (As the start of BASIC can move, eg with microdrives) use with caution.	Converts the first line of a program to line number zero. which cannot be edited, and so is protected.
3 RAMTOP POKE 16388,X-256*INT (X/256) POKE 16389,INT (X/256) <i>Table 3 General interconversion hints.</i>	CLEAR x	Creates a safe area at the top of RAM starting at address x, for storing data, machine code etc.



BEEP	•	FORMAT	•	ATTR	•
BORDER	•	INK	•	BIN	•
BRIGHT	•	INVERSE	•	FN	•
CAT	•	MERGE	•	IN	•
CIRCLE	•	MOVE	•	OVER	•
CLOSE	•	OPEN	•	POINT	•
DATA	•	OUT	•	SCREEN\$	•
DEF FN	•	PAPER	•	VAL\$	•
DRAW	•	READ	•		
ERASE	•	RESTORE	•		
FLASH	•	VERIFY	•		

Table 4 Spectrum functions not available on the ZX81.

System Variables Conversion Table.

Variable	ZX81/ T/S1000	Spectrum/ TS2068	LAST K	16421	23560
			MARGIN	16424	No Equivalent
			MEM	16415	23656
BREG	16414	23655	MEMBOTT	16477	23698
CDFLAG	16443	No Equivalent	MODE	16390	23617
CH ADD	16406	23645	NXTLIN	16425	23637
COORDS	16438	23677	OLDPCC	16427	23662
COORDS (Byte 2)	16439	23678	PPC	16391	23621
DEST	16402	23629	PRBUFF	16444	23296
DF CC	16398	23684	PR CC	16440	23680
D FILE	16396	No Equivalent	RAMTOP	16388	23730
DF SZ	16418	23659	SEED	16434	23670
E LINE	16404	23641	S PSN	16441	23688
ERR NR	16384	23610	S POSN (Byte 2)	16442	23689
E PPC	16294	23625	STKBOT	16410	23651
ERR SP	16386	23613	STKEND	16412	23653
FLAGS	16385	23611	S TOP	16419	23660
FLAGX	16429	23665	STRLEN	16430	23666
FRAMES	16436	23672	T-ADDR	16432	23668
			VARS	16400	23627
			VERSN	16393	No Equivalent
			X PTR	16408	23647

Do You Want to Make a Deal, or Pay Full Price?

By STEPHEN MANES

ON the left of the Egghead Software shelf sits a box of software priced at \$209.93. On the right is a virtually identical box at \$439.83. The \$229.90 difference? The left-hand box is prominently labeled "Upgrade." The other one might as well be labeled: "Ridiculously overpriced! For suckers only!"

The second box is the computer world's equivalent of the full-fare airplane seat or the rack-rate hotel room, with even less reason for existence. After all, hotel rooms and airline seats are transitory. With software, there is always time to crank out another copy.

As with airfares, specials on the most popular kinds of software are many and confusing. The best deal is usually the "version upgrade,"

which gives you a big discount on a new version of your existing software. Not quite as good is the "competitive upgrade," which give you a discount for switching from one product to another. Both types tend to be cheapest immediately after a product is introduced.

There are even unique offers like one from Novell Inc. If you buy a copy of the current version of PerfectOffice, even at upgrade prices, you will get a free copy of the new version for Windows 95 when it is released toward the end of the year. But if you also buy Windows 95 itself before Oct. 31, Novell will mail you a \$50 rebate. Since Windows 95 is of course produced by Novell's arch-rival, the coupon informs the puzzled, "This offer is not sponsored by Microsoft Corporation in any way."

In a world where a company offers a sizable discount on a competitor's product and many products come

free or cheap when you buy a new computer, paying full price becomes downright ludicrous. Look again at the \$209.93 box, which happens to contain the Standard edition of Microsoft Office 95. Below the "Upgrade" legend is the warning, "This program searches your system to confirm your eligibility for this upgrade." On the side panel is a long list of qualifying products, including Wordstar 1.0 (dating from 1982) and Microsoft's own Works. If you have an earlier version of Office, you are even eligible for an additional \$40 version rebate by mail.

But perhaps you are a new user without a single program to your name. No matter. Between the \$209.93 and the \$439.83 editions of Office sits a box that costs just \$49.38. It is the new floppy-disk edition of Microsoft Works. Surely you cannot buy it and use it to qualify for the cheaper upgrade version of Of-

fice? Indeed you can. According to Sarah Leary, the Microsoft Office product manager, "It's absolutely a legal thing to do under the terms of our license agreement." You do not even have to install Works; according to Ms. Leary, if Office does not find a qualifying program on your hard drive, it will ask you to insert a disk from one. A Lotus 1-2-3 disk from a garage sale would work fine.

Sandra Sellers, the director of litigation for the Software Publishers Association, took advantage of a competitive upgrade herself. To save money on Wordperfect for a new computer, she said, "I ended up buying two software packages, one that I wasn't intending to use, and it was within the rules."

There are a few legal issues worth considering, however. The Software Publishers Association says version upgrades should be viewed as improvements. In general, you cannot

sell or give away the older edition or use it on a different machine, and you should retain purchase documentation for all editions to prove they were acquired within the rules.

Competitive upgrades are different. Essentially they do nothing to keep you from selling or donating the older program, provided you transfer it, as Ms. Sellers puts it, "part and parcel," by eliminating it from your hard disk and keeping nothing that came in the box.

A few gray areas remain. If you buy Works to get a deal on Office, you can legitimately give away or sell the whole Works package. But if you had to reinstall your new program after a hard disk crash, you would need to retrieve the Works disk. To do that perfectly legally might require that the person to whom you transferred it transfer it back "part and parcel," removing every vestige from its new home.

Fortunately, few upgrade programs actually check. That job is usually left to the retailer who sells you the upgrade, who may ask to see a disk from the product or a page

from the manual. One product that does check is Windows 95; if you somehow managed to avoid all earlier versions and OS/2, it will cost you about \$100 extra.

To make things as confusing as in the skies, different deals are available. For example, Office 95 is available in the academic market for about \$150, with no upgrade required. But after buying one copy of a product, even small businesses can often get lower-cost licenses to make extra copies or run the software over a network; neither disks nor manuals are supplied. There are even bigger discounts for big quantities.

For all this you can thank competition. Software makers remain so desperate to increase their shares of the PC market that they are still willing to cut very attractive deals to woo customers. But this consumer bonanza may not last forever. In the world of the Apple Macintosh, where competition is less intense, competitive upgrades are becoming harder to find. As Microsoft tightens its grip on the desktop, the same thing could well happen in the PC world.